

newly added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 are currently pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dague. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because Dague does not recite each and every element set forth in amended claims 1-16, Dague cannot anticipate the electrical connector recited in claims 1-16 of the present application.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to specify an electrical connector which has a an elongated body portion having a predetermined length, and wall means having a generally uniform thickness along the length of the elongated body portion. Independent claim 10 has been amended to specify an electrical connector housing having walls extending between the mating and terminating faces, the walls having predetermined lengths, and the walls having a generally uniform thickness between the front mating face and the rear terminating face along the lengths of the walls. Dague clearly does not disclose a connector with features as specified in amended claims 1 and 10.

In Figures 21 and 22 referenced by the Examiner, Dague discloses a downwardly depending internal flange 2144 which is used to stiffen the upper part 20102 of the connector 2100, see Col. 5, lines 33-36. The present invention does not require such a separate stiffening member because of the novel construction of the connector and instead is provided with walls or wall means having a generally uniform thickness along the length of the elongated body portion as is specified in amended claim 1 and amended claim 10.

Therefore, because Dague does not disclose, teach or suggest a connector or a connector housing having all of the limitations of amended claim 1 or amended claim 10, applicants submit that Dague does not anticipate and does not render obvious the invention defined by amended claim 1 or amended claim 10. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 10 is requested.

Claims 2-5 and newly-presented claim 17 are dependent upon amended claim 1 which applicants submit is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-6 and entry, consideration and allowance of claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-16 are dependent upon amended claim 10 which applicants submit is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 11-16 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to specify an electrical connector having an elongated body portion with a predetermined width, and end portions, each end portion having a predetermined width which is greater than the width of the elongated body portion. The width of the elongated body portion and the width of each end portion is defined by a dimension which is transverse to the terminal-receiving passages.

The end portions 2164, 2162 of Dague shown in Figure 21 and 22 do not have a width greater than the width of the elongated body portion when the width of the elongated body portion and the width of each end portion 2164, 2162 is defined by a dimension which is transverse to the terminal-receiving passages. Instead, the width of the end portions 2164, 2162 is the same as the width of the elongated body portion when the width is defined by a dimension which is transverse to the terminal-receiving passages.

Therefore, because Dague does not disclose, teach or suggest a connector having all of the limitations of amended claim 6, applicants submit that Dague does not anticipate and does not render obvious the invention defined by amended claim 6. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 6 is requested.

Claims 7-9 are dependent upon amended claim 6 which applicants submit is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 7-9 is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in view of the rewritten claims and in light of the above remarks, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation will facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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Version of Amended Claim Showing the Changes Made

1. (Once Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:
a molded plastic housing having an elongated body portion defining a front mating face and a rear terminating face of the connector, said elongated body portion having a predetermined length, a plurality of terminal-receiving passages defined by wall means extending between said mating and terminating faces, and said wall means being of generally uniform thickness between the faces along the length of said elongated body portion; and
a plurality of conductive terminals mounted in said terminal-receiving passages.
6. (Twice Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:
a molded plastic housing having an elongated body portion longitudinally extending between opposite end portions, a plurality of terminal-receiving passages extending transversely through the elongated body portion, the elongated body portion [being of a generally uniform] having a predetermined width, and each said [the] end portion[s] having a predetermined width which is greater [being wider] than the width of the body portion [therebetween], said width of said elongated body portion and said width of each said end portion being defined by a dimension which is transverse to said terminal-receiving passages; and
a plurality of conductive terminals mounted in said terminal-receiving passages.
10. (Once Amended) An electrical connector housing, comprising:
an elongated body portion defining a front mating face and a rear terminating face, walls extending between the mating and terminating faces, said walls defining a plurality of terminal-receiving passages [defined by walls extending between the mating and terminating faces], said walls having predetermined lengths, [wherein the] said walls are of generally uniform thickness between the front mating face and the rear terminating face along the lengths thereof.